

## **1.4 MITIGATION MEASURES**

***WAC 463-42-085 General-Mitigation Measures.** The Applicant shall describe the means to be utilized to minimize or mitigate possible adverse impacts on the physical or human environments*

### **1.4.1 Construction Mitigation Measures**

#### **4.1.1.1 Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan**

A detailed construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed for the Project to help minimize the potential for discharge of pollutants from the site during construction activities. The SWPPP will be designed to meet the requirements of the Washington state Department of Ecology General Permit to Discharge Storm Water through its storm water pollution control program (Chapter 173-220 WAC) associated with construction activities.

The SWPPP will include both structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs). Examples of structural BMPs could include the installation of silt curtains and/or other physical controls to divert flows from exposed soils, or otherwise limit runoff and pollutants from exposed areas of the site. Examples of non-structural BMPs include management practices such as implementation of materials handling, disposal requirements and spill prevention methods.

A SWPPP meeting the conditions of the Storm Water General Permit for Construction Activities will be prepared and submitted to EFSEC along with a Notice of Intent (NOI) for construction activities prior to the start of Project construction activities.

Specific elements of the SWPPP are covered in more detail in Section 2.10 Surface Water Runoff and Section 3.3 Water.

#### **1.4.1.2 Fire**

The applicant will institute mitigation measures for protection from fire during construction, including negotiating a contract with local fire district(s) to provide fire protection during construction. These mitigation measures are set out in detail in Section 4.1.2, Table 4.1.2.1.

#### **1.4.1.3 Dust Control**

Construction of the Project will create fugitive dust and air emissions from construction-related traffic and additional wind-blown dust as a result of ground disturbance. Mitigation measures to limit dust and air emissions during construction are described in Section 3.2.5 Mitigation Measures. These measures include such things as water-based dust suppression to control dust generated by vehicle traffic.

#### **1.4.1.4 Traffic**

During construction, roadways and intersections in the vicinity of the Project site will provide an acceptable level of passage for traffic, even during the evening peak traffic periods. However, the following mitigation measures are proposed to further reduce the impact of Project construction on roadway traffic in the region: Adopt and obtain approval for a Traffic Management Plan from EFSEC prior to construction; provide notice to landowners of construction activities; provide

road signage; use pilot cars; encourage car pooling; provide flaggers; and provide detour plans. These mitigations are set forth in detail in Section 5.2.5.5.

#### **1.4.1.5 Archaeology and Historic Preservation**

The Applicant carried out an archaeological survey that covered all areas within the Project where ground-altering activities are proposed. Two small lithic scatter sites were identified. Both sites will be avoided to prevent any damage.

A qualified archeologist will monitor all ground disturbing activities during the construction process. If a cultural resource feature is encountered, all construction will be halted temporarily in the area of the feature. If human remains/burials are encountered, construction will cease immediately in the area of the burial and the area will be secured and placed off limits for anyone but authorized personnel. The archeologist will notify the relevant authorities concerned with such an inadvertent discovery, specifically including the Yakama Nation. The Yakama Nation has been consulted during the planning process beginning in February of 2002. The Yakama Nation will be notified prior to commencement of construction and be invited to have representatives present during all ground breaking activities. It is anticipated that a stipulation will be made with the Yakama Nation establishing procedures to be followed in the event of any finds during construction.

#### **1.4.1.6 Plants and Animals**

As described in detail in Section 3.4.8, Proposed Mitigation Measures for Potential Impacts to Plants and Animals, the Applicant has proposed a comprehensive set of mitigation measures for impacts related to construction of the Project. These include the following:

- Avoidance of construction in sensitive areas such as riparian zones, wetlands, forests, etc.;
- Minimization of new road construction by improving and using existing roads and trails instead of constructing new roads.
- Construction techniques and BMPs to minimize impacts, such as:
- Reseeding of all temporarily disturbed areas with an appropriate mix of native plant species as soon as possible after construction is completed to accelerate the revegetation of these areas and to the prevent spread of noxious weeds.

#### **1.4.1.7 Public Services and Socioeconomic Impacts**

Potential impacts to public services and utilities will be mitigated by tax revenues generated by the Applicant. No adverse impacts are expected. However, should there be construction impacts requiring additional staffing levels during construction or other impacts or costs related to services which will not be covered timely by tax revenues, the Applicant will enter into agreement(s) with the respective local governmental agency for prepayment of taxes to offset the cost impacts. This would include fire, police and county roads. Mitigation for potential public services and socioeconomic impacts are described in greater detail in Section 5.3.4, including specific mitigation measures for fire, police and emergency services.

### **1.4.2 Operation**

#### **1.4.2.1 Storm Water Pollution Prevention**

The Application will prepare a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to be approved by EFSEC as part of the final design. The Project operations group will be responsible for monitoring the SWPPP measures that were implemented during construction to ensure they continue to function properly. Final designs for the permanent BMPs will be incorporated into the final construction plans and specifications prepared by the engineering team's civil design engineer. An operations manual for the permanent BMPs will be prepared by the EPC contractor civil design engineer and the Project's engineering team.

The permanent storm water BMPs will include permanent erosion and sedimentation control through site landscaping, grass, and other vegetative cover. The final designs for these permanent BMPs will conform to the Washington Department of Ecology Storm Water Management Manual. The operational storm water mitigations are described in greater detail in Section 3.3.2

#### **1.4.2.2 Fire**

The applicant will institute mitigation measures for protection from fire during operation. These mitigation measures are set out in detail in Section 4.1.2, Table 4.1.2.1.

#### **1.4.2.3 Aesthetics, Light and Glare**

Mitigation measures that have been made an integral part of the Project's design for aesthetics, light and glare generally include such things as: Restoring temporarily disturbed areas to original condition; using uniform turbine designs and coloring to reduce their visibility; synchronizing aviation lights; utilize a light design that minimizes light propagation and limit their number to the extent allowed by the FAA; and the placement of the electrical collection system underground as much as is feasible. The mitigations measures for aesthetics, light and glare are described in detail in Section 5.1.4.

#### **1.4.2.4 Mitigation for Operations Impacts to Plants and Animals**

As described in detail in Section 3.4.8, Proposed Mitigation Measures for Potential Impacts to Plants and Animals, a comprehensive mitigation package for operations impacts to plants and animals is proposed for this Project. It consists of several categories of actions, including:

- Thorough study and analysis to avoid impacts (e.g. avian baseline study, raptor nest survey, rare plant investigation, etc.);
- Project design features to minimize impacts (e.g. use of underground rather than overhead lines, use of bird flight diverters on guy wires, etc.);
- Operational BMPs to minimize impacts (e.g. noxious weed control, fire control plan, removal of livestock carcasses to prevent raptor scavenging, etc.);
- Monitoring and adaptive management to minimize impacts during operations (e.g. establish a Technical Advisory Committee, conduct one year post-construction wildlife monitoring plan, etc.);
- Acquisition and enhancement of a large, contiguous on-site area of good quality habitat that faces immediate threat of development